

Town Clerk's Report

The Office of Municipal Clerk is older than the State of Maine. Beginning in 1639 the Massachusetts Court decreed that each Town record births, deaths, and ownership of lands. We are no longer responsible for keeping land records, but the list of our duties has never stopped growing.

We maintain records of all Town Meetings, manage the process of all elections, record death certificates, and issue marriage licenses. We also issue all fishing and hunting licenses and stamps, all dog licenses and kennel licenses, and manage a process under State Law known as the dog warrant which annually deals with unlicensed dogs. We issue all clam licenses (over 400 commercial and recreational) and all mooring permits (over 2200). State Law requires we register all businesses. We handle the absentee voting process for all written ballots and we chase you out the door when you mistakenly begin to leave with your absentee ballots.

We swear in all committee members and other appointees, as well as elected officials. We process passports and provide Notary Public services for anyone at no charge. We manage the Registrar of Voters Office and validate signatures on all State and local petitions. This highlights most, but not all the functions performed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Recently we have been involved with the State-wide initiative that will centralize all voter lists. The State has delivered a new computer, printer, label-maker and scanner. Local control of maintaining our own voter lists will not change, but registrars throughout the State will be able to keep up more accurately with a mobile voter population and the public will be better served.

One of the pleasures of this job is that this Office is responsible for maintaining all of the Town records. These records date back to the 1700s. We welcome requests (by appointment) for assistance with genealogical research. We will help you review the records and hopefully you will find interesting information about your ancestors.



Cathy Graybill *Rosalind Knight*
Deputy Town Clerk *Town Clerk*

I cannot close out 2005 without special thanks to all my election workers. Dozens of our fellow citizens come forward to work at the polls for the many elections we have each year. They attend classes and learn the procedures and updates to election laws, and sometimes work 15-hour work days to get the task done. It is a tough and demanding job and I could not fulfill my responsibility without their commitment to precision. I thank them and I thank the citizens of Harpswell for the privilege of serving you.

2005 Elections & Town Meetings

March 13, 2005

Annual Town Meeting
Number of Voters: 1,398
Percentage of Voter Turnout: 30%

June 14, 2005

Special Municipal Referendum &
M.S.A.D. #75 Budget Referendum
Number of Voters: 606
Percentage of Voter Turnout: 13.3%

November 8, 2005

State & Municipal Referendum
Number of Voters: 2,393
Percentage of Voter Turnout: 54%